

THE DAILY JOURNAL is published every morning except Monday at Six Dollars a Year; Three Dollars for six months; Fifty Cents per month for shorter periods. Sent by carriers in the city at FIFTY CENTS PER MONTH.

THE WEEKLY JOURNAL (Friday) One Dollar and a Half.

Advertising Rates (per square of ten solid lines of advertising type): One Square, one insertion, ONE DOLLAR; two insertions, ONE DOLLAR AND A HALF; three insertions, TWO DOLLARS; four insertions, TWO DOLLARS AND A HALF; five insertions, THREE DOLLARS; six insertions, THREE DOLLARS AND A HALF; one month, EIGHT DOLLARS; two months, TWELVE DOLLARS; three months, SIXTEEN DOLLARS.

### The Daily Journal.

CICERO W. HARRIS.

WILMINGTON, N. C.  
WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEB 11, 1877

#### PREPAID POLL-TAX.

Senator Crawford, of Rowan, has introduced a bill to amend the Constitution so as to require the payment of poll-tax by electors before voting. For the year 1876, the Auditor's report shows a return of 103,307 white polls and 52,599 colored polls, giving an aggregate of 155,906. Yet in the same year the 7th of November elections show an aggregate of 228,982 votes cast. So it appears that 73,076 voters did not pay poll-tax last year, and the State is defrauded to that extent. Here is one strong reason for the adoption of such an amendment as Mr. Crawford proposes, says the Charlotte "Democrat."

The "Democrat" is right. The requirement of poll-tax in advance would remedy many of the ills under which the State suffers. In equity he who pays nothing to support the government should not help to constitute that government.

#### DISCREPANCY IN THE ELECTORAL LAW.

The New York "Herald" calls attention to the discrepancy between two of the sections of the Electoral Law—those in regard to the power of either House to take a recess after voting on an objection which the joint convention has separated to consider. Section 1, in reference to separations to consider objections to a vote or votes from States from which there shall be only one return, says: "When the two Houses have voted they shall immediately again meet, and the presiding officer shall then announce the decision of the question submitted." But section 5 contains these words: "Such joint meeting shall not be dissolved until the count of the electoral votes shall be completed and the result declared, and no recess shall be taken unless a question shall have arisen in regard to the counting of any such votes or otherwise under this act, in which case it shall be competent for either House acting separately in the manner hereinbefore provided, to direct a recess of such House not beyond the next day, Sunday excepted, at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon, &c. If the majority of the House chooses to exercise this power to adjourn for the day after every objection has been voted upon, it might easily throw over the result until after the 4th of March by multiplying objections. There are yet thirty-one States to count. From and including Monday there are eighteen working days before March 4. The contested cases of Louisiana and Oregon are not likely to take less than four days together, leaving fourteen days which might be consumed in this manner, if the Democrats should be disposed to obstruct the completion of the count. This would leave the President of the United States for one year and necessitate a new election next autumn.

This course will not be resorted to by the Democrats. Our party having agreed to the Commission, will not factiously oppose its rulings though they be black as the decrees of the god of the infernal world. Referring to the charge that the Democratic House wishes to obstruct the count the Washington correspondence of the Baltimore "Sun" says:

"The partisan press is disseminating false and malicious statements as to the

members influencing the House of Representatives in taking a recess till tomorrow without objection on the floor, and the charge is really made that a person exists in the part of a majority of the House to postpone under various pretexts final action on the electoral count until after the 4th of March. There is no authority whatever for any such statements, and they have originated entirely in the brains of those who have put them into circulation. There are not a dozen members on the Democratic side in the House who would sanction any such proposition, even if it were seriously made from any authorized quarter, which is not the case. Yesterday when the House met some of the gentlemen who were to speak stated that they had not fully marked out in their own minds the line of argument which they wished to pursue. It was to accommodate these gentlemen that it was determined to take the recess till Monday. This is sufficient to show what foundation there is for the sensational stories of revolutionary designs on the part of the House Democrats, which sensational stories will undoubtedly be repeated in great detail in the partisan press to-morrow."

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Dec 30-4f

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1877. NEW YORK, 1877.

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